

Alcohol, Hygiene and Legislation. Edward Huntington Williams, M. D., N. Y. The Goodhue Co., 1915.

Dr. Williams makes a sharp distinction between the use and the abuse of alcohol; between the "normal" moderate drinker and the "abnormal" inebriate. He believes that the present methods of prohibitive legislation have failed and that there should be substituted such legislation as would cut down promptly on the use of distilled liquors of high alcoholic content, and encourage the use of the lighter beers and wines. He hopes, through education, the whole problem of alcohol may be settled by evolution rather than revolution. He claims a direct relation between prohibitive legislation, and increase in the consumption of alcohol, increase in the use of narcotic drugs, insanity, amount of mortgaged property, etc. He thinks the use of alcohol has been blamed for too much pathology. He finds that Kansas has 1.3 more insane persons per 100,000 than the rest of the states, but in arriving at this conclusion, he excludes six states because of "thick population" and Oregon and Washington because they form a "unique group." He would work more toward keeping the drinker away from drink, than drink from the drinker; and yet malaria might be beyond control if one simply aimed at keeping persons from the source of infection instead of eradicating mosquito-breeding swamps. The book shows that prohibitive legislation is not at present prohibiting but does not prove the case against such legislation, properly executed. The following is from an editorial in Collier's for June 17, 1916: "— in the city of Wichita, Kansas, the saloons were running years after the prohibition laws were supposed to have gone into effect, but when a dry mayor was elected and the laws rigidly enforced, the bank clearings increased from \$1,200,000 a week to \$3,000,000 a week, in three years; merchants' collections improved; and, whereas 40% of the insured workmen had been in arrears, they now paid up, and some in advance. —" While it may be a happen-so that improved conditions and enforced prohibition came together, yet these facts offer some evidence against assertions that business depression must necessarily follow in the wake of successful prohibitive legislation.

Dr. Williams's book is interesting to all who consider the problem of alcohol. J. H. C.

The Clinics of John B. Murphy, M. D., at Mercy Hospital, Chicago. Volume V, Number III (June 1916). Octavo of 176 pages, 42 illustrations. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company, 1916. Price per year, Paper, \$8.00; Cloth, \$12.00

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Vesical calculus—suprapubic lithotomy.

A Handbook of Infant Feeding. By Lawrence T. Royster, M. D., illustrated, St. Louis. C. V. Mosby, 1916. Price \$1.25.

In the first half of this compendium of infant feeding Royster presents in a very refreshing manner his personal views on the subject. In general he has outlined important features of recognized methods. He also explains in words of one syllable phenomena which usually are shrouded in obscurity—such, for example, as digestive "adaptation" to certain food elements.

When, in the latter half of the treatise, he endorses for general use the caloric and percentage methods of feeding and endeavors to prove that they are simple and easy, he is naturally less successful. That the methods are not simple Royster makes quite plain by his very effort to demonstrate their simplicity, approximately twenty pages of the otherwise lucid monograph being devoted to algebraic formulas for modifying milk.

In my opinion these methods are not deserving of the position they occupy in the minds of practitioners. I have before pointed out, in this connection, that it is not the percentages nor calories ingested that nourish a baby—but the amounts digested and assimilated.

As a whole, the compendium can be read with benefit by pediatricists as well as general practitioners. S. B.

The Biology and Treatment of Venereal Diseases and the Biology of Inflammation and its Relationship to Malignant Disease. By J. E. R. McDonagh, F. R. C. S. Philadelphia and New York: Lea & Febiger. 1916.

One regarding the innocent title of this work and limiting himself to the mere expectation of a clinical treatise with the scientific aspects of venereal diseases duly amplified in the text will be surprised to discover its real depth and scope. To be sure the anticipated ground is well and clearly covered. But a large portion of the book is devoted to histological, that is, mainly cytological, studies in their most fundamental relations. In addition the author has conducted an extensive and searching investigation in the field of micro-chemistry and from observations on tinctorial reactions has evolved views upon the nature and mechanism of most subtle chemico-physical processes of living tissue. By means of numerous, painstaking and seemingly accurate observations there is an attempt to discover the basic facts, and deductions are carefully drawn from these. However the reasoning is often more plausible than convincing and is sometimes contradictory. To fully appreciate the book one needs a knowledge of the discoveries of Unna and Pappenheim, Abderhalden and Emil Fisher in ad-

dition to the physical chemistry of colloids. While this applies to the scientific side the clinical side as given does not presuppose such knowledge.

The opening chapters deal with a description of the syphilitic organism, called by the author *Leucocytozoon Syphilidis*. Evidence is presented showing that the organism passes through a sexual and asexual cycle. The *Spirochaeta Pallida* is merely the male gamete form. Certain chemical bodies are determined in the organism by special staining reactions and later these are considered in connection with the chemical nature of the immunity reaction in syphilis and particularly the Wassermann reaction. The clinical course of syphilis is then considered and a description of the technic and significance of the various tests is given in a rather informal manner of presentation. The author's views on the exact chemical action of Salvarsan as based upon his own investigations (Chapter XXVII, "Chemotherapy and its Mode of Action in Syphilis") are well worth reading. His experience at the London Lock Hospital places him as an authority on the treatment of syphilis and the chapters devoted to this subject are replete with practical information, giving evidence of well-balanced, critical judgment. The treatment of syphilis of the central nervous system receives special attention.

Syphilis covers about the first two-thirds of the book. Several chapters are given to gonorrhoea and its complications. A full description of certain of the rarer complications, such as keratoderma, as well as of the laboratory technic of complement fixation together with a discussion of vaccine treatment form distinctive features. Other venereal diseases are considered, and attention is particularly called to the splendid description of granuloma inguinale, a tropical disease. Chapters XLII, XLIII, and XLIV are devoted to sexual neurasthenia and the social aspects of venereal disease.

Part II, covering the last 90 pages, is novel. The author has made studies of fundamental types of cells, the epithelial cell, lymphocyte, the endothelial cell, etc., tracing their origin and growth and the stimuli affecting growth, their chemical constitution and their responses to noxious agents. It is impossible to abstract in brief all the information given. There is particularly in this connection a lengthy discussion of leucaemia and leucaemic states with original views. There is also a free discussion of malignant growths of the skin, with an elaborate classification of the epitheliomata.

M. S.

The Art of Anesthesia. By Paluel J. Flagg, M. D. 136 illustrations. 341 pp., Philadelphia and London: J. B. Lippincott Company. Price \$3.50. 1916.

The author of this manual states in his preface that "the proper administration of an anesthetic is more than a mere mechanical performance, it is an art." That this is so in the author's opinion is amply demonstrated by the appearance of this volume, wherein the whole subject of anesthesia is comprehensively and adequately dealt with.

As is fitting, a short history of anesthesia is given and reproductions of documents which relate to the first use of ether.

A very complete table giving the classification of anesthesia is inserted. Excellent advice is given the young internist on the "control of maintenance," a term used by the author and which is self-explanatory.

The chapter on "Ether" is very fully covered and well written and is by far the best in the book. A warning on the use of ethyl chloride is sounded and its use deprecated on account of the great danger attending its use. However, in experienced hands it has proven for minor operations of short duration, an excellent and safe anesthetic. In one of the large London clinics

it is the anesthetic of choice for children for tonsillectomies and other throat work, and has been used thousands of times without a single fatality. Chloroform, with the latest pathological researches concerning its effects on the organism, is treated of at some length and the picture presented therein is truly a terrifying, and I think an unjust one. Without doubt chloroform is a much more toxic agent than ether, but it has many advantages in its favor which will never allow it to become entirely superseded. No mention is made of that interesting condition known as "status lymphaticus" or of "thymic death" and it is to these states that the deaths of many children are due, following the administration of chloroform. Laymen, and even medical men for that matter formerly thought that any old "practical nurse" "could give the chloroform."

The results are only too well known and have contributed greatly to the disrepute into which this invaluable agent has fallen. But in the hands of a highly trained specialist the danger is reduced to a minimum and makes chloroform a safe agent for inducing narcosis.

This brings up the much mooted question of the education of the medical student in the administration of anesthetics, a subject sadly lacking in the medical curriculum. Many times alas! it is only when the interne has his first fatality that he realizes that the giving of an anesthetic is a serious matter, and absolutely on a par with the operation itself, contributing to or taking away from its success.

This is an opportune moment to urge upon students and practitioners the importance of studying this important subject.

The chapter on local and spinal anesthesia treats of the subject very fully. Technique is admirably handled but more might have been written about the treatment of sudden emergencies and the various methods of resuscitation, especially the use of the lung motor. Only a line or two is devoted to massage of the heart, and none on the use of the electric current in case of impending disaster.

On many occasions the timely use of the above agents has saved life, and the anesthetist should have knowledge of every possible emergency that is liable to crop up during the administration of an anesthetic, and having the knowledge be able to apply it.

Generally speaking, it is a good book on the subject, written by a practical man who speaks with authority and expert knowledge of his topic. The printing is clear and the book is well illustrated throughout. It can be cordially recommended as an excellent treatise in small compass on the science and art of anesthesia and should prove of great value to students and practitioners alike. A careful perusal of its contents will amply repay the time spent and much valuable information gleaned from between its covers. C. H. C.

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE STATE BOARD OF HEALTH, JULY 1, 1916.

The regular meeting of the State Board of Health was called to order at 8:30 a. m., Saturday, July 1, 1916, President George E. Ebricht in the chair. There were present President George E. Ebricht, Vice-President F. F. Gundrum, Dr. Edward F. Glaser, Dr. Adelaide Brown and Secretary Wilbur A. Sawyer.

Dr. H. E. Peters, in accordance with the request of the board of trustees of the city of Pittsburg and of the health officer for Contra Costa County, was appointed inspector of the State Board of Health, without salary from the State, for the purpose of enforcing the stream